



QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE SCHEMES

SEPTEMBER 2018



In October 2014 the Quantock Hills AONB Service launched a number of schemes which aimed to deliver landscape enhancement across the affected area associated with the new Nuclear Power Station development, Hinkley Point C. These schemes are delivered on behalf of the partners, EDF Energy, Somerset County Council, West Somerset Council and Sedgemoor District Council.

GREATER QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT FUND

KEY FACTS

- **143 enquiries to the GQLDF**
- **47 applications, with 35 approved.**
- **Fund Budget £152,103**
- **Fund Allocated £93,803**
- **Funding Available £61,100**

Since its launch in October 2014 the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund (GQLDF) has supported 35 projects throughout the affected area. The fund is available to farmers, landowners, community groups or businesses who wish to apply for grants to undertake small scale landscape improvements.

Grants of up to £20,000 are available and its easy to apply. The AONB Service are on hand to help with your application or to discuss if you have a project idea.

The GQLDF fund has supported the planting of 2.2km of new native hedge and the traditional management of a further 3.8km of hedgerow.



DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT?

Contact
Iain Porter on 07977 412077
iporter@somerset.gov.uk

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2,320m² of ponds have been restored through the GQLDF



Hector's Pond
April 2015

Quantock Conservation
Volunteers members after
completion of the scrub
clearance at Hector's Pond



Hector's Pond
April 2016



Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly. Now a common sight at
Hectors Pond

8 Projects have planted 207 orchard trees, of which 5 projects
are on historic orchard sites from tithe map times



"The grant has
allowed us to
improve our local
landscape for all
our villagers to
enjoy now and into
the future. It has
been great to see
so many volunteers
help deliver this
project" Jim Ridout,
Fiddington Parish
Council



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Over 3.5Ha of new wildflower meadows have been sown



Panel Members Dr Chris Smith and Ian Clark looking at species composition of a new wildflower meadow



591 new native standard trees have been planted. These will become the veteran trees of the future ensuring the high quality landscape of the Quantock Hills and Vale remain beautiful.

LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Landscape Improvement Scheme aims to increase the resilience of existing priority habitats on the Quantock Hills. It will achieve this by creating new heathland and oak woodlands which join the existing areas of habitat together. The scheme is working in partnership with private and public landowners and will run over the next 5 years.



Stump grinding at St Audries. This area was a conifer plantation but will be reverted to 9Ha of heathland

“Working with the AONB Service has created this exciting opportunity to kick start the creation of more heathland as part of our approved Forest Plan for St Audries woodland and the removal of the stumps will make the area much easier to manage into the future ensuring its longevity and condition.” Nick Salter, Forestry Commission

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At St Audries, within 4 months coloniser species such as Climbing Corydalis (left) and Red sand spurrey (above left) carpeted much of the 9 Ha site. A year after the works were complete Bell Heather (Erica Cineria) and gorse seedlings (top right) and insects such as the Green Tiger Beetle (right)

LAND MANAGEMENT & SKILLS SCHEME—DELIVERED BY THE QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SERVICE

The Quantock Hills AONB Service has been commissioned by West Somerset Council to run 3 schemes which aim to provide local farmers, landowners and communities the opportunity to learn land management skills.

Orchard management workshops. During 2016 and 17 3 workshops were undertaken attended by 43 local landowners / community members. These provided



local communities with the skills to plan, plant and prune fruit trees. The workshops also explore processing apples for fruit juice or cider.

Through the **Wildlife Monitoring Scheme** training and resources are provided allowing groups to monitor key species in their own community. So far 27 volunteers have been trained in bird and bat monitoring allowing

4 new transects to be surveyed in 2017. In September 2017 a number of sessions were run for 23 young people introducing them to bats and monitoring in their local community.



1st Watchet Brownies monitoring bats around Watchet

The third element of this scheme is **Resilience Planning for local landowners**. Through 4 workshops, attended by 87 landowners / farmers promoting the benefits of resilience planning in farming and forestry. As part of the project 10 farm / forestry plans were drawn up incorporating resilience into farm and forestry systems.



DELIVERING 'MORE, BIGGER, BETTER' FOR WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPE AND PEOPLE

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